



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter Daniel HANSEN et al. Art Unit : 2121  
Serial No. : 09/503,508 Examiner : Sheela S. Rao  
Filed : February 14, 2000  
Title : INTELLIGENT VALVE FLOW LINEARIZATION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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REPLY

In reply to the action mailed March 27, 2001, please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. The method of claim 2, wherein calculating the flow area of the valve flow modulating member comprises using the target flow rate and the determined pressure coefficient.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending, with claim 1 being independent. Claim 3 has been amended.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 because the term "measured flow rate" lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 3 to recite "target flow rate," which finds antecedent basis in claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Independent claim 1 recites an open loop method of controlling flow rate of a fluid through a valve flow modulating member that is controlled by a position of a valve stem. The method includes setting a target flow rate and determining a target valve stem position based on the target flow rate. Additionally, the valve stem position is adjusted until a position of the valve stem matches the target valve stem position.

Claims 1-15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Haines et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,251,148). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection because Haines does not describe or suggest an open loop method of controlling flow rate,